

**Unpaid Internship and Community Service Opportunities at the
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Pequest Trout Hatchery & Natural Resource Education Center
And
Hackettstown Hatchery
www.njfishandwildlife.com**

The Division of Fish & Wildlife offers high school and college students opportunities for unpaid internships at its fish rearing facilities at Pequest and Hackettstown. Depending on the amount of time the student wants to spend, and the student's interests and objectives, staff can provide direction for a meaningful experience. Students will be trained, coached and supervised throughout their experience.

Students ages 18 and above can join the division's Wildlife Conservation Corp (WCC) in order to volunteer. This program provides nominal insurance for activities related to the volunteer activities. You must submit an application, have a photo i.d. taken, and receive basic training about how to conduct yourself as a division volunteer. You are expected to give a minimum of 80 hours annually as a WCC volunteer.

High school students can participate to earn service learning credit by volunteering at Pequest or Hackettstown. Students must verify that their school's insurance covers them while they are volunteering at either hatchery. They are not permitted to drive a state vehicle, and cannot participate as a WCC volunteer (if under age 18).

Pequest volunteer possibilities:

Contact Mim Dunne: 908-637-4125

Visitor services

Pequest is open to the public from 10 to 4 every day for self-guided tours. During school breaks, weekends, and summers, visitation can be brisk. Help is needed to answer question, provide printed information to visitors, and to assist staff with miscellaneous visitor services. There are many areas of routine maintenance that can be done to relieve pressure on staff: litter pick up, gardening, hand pruning and shearing of shrubs are some of the areas where help is always needed.

Hatchery tours

Groups schedule tours of the hatchery throughout the year. The program consists of a short introduction to the hatchery, showing the video "Hooked on Nature", and guiding the group to observe the nursery building and observation

platform. Students can be tour guides for groups of kids or adults.

Fishing Education

During April through November, groups schedule fishing education programs at the education pond. On average, about 1200 adults and kids participate annually. This program consists of an overview of fishing techniques, safety, ethics, conservation, and laws. Participants are coached on casting technique, baiting a hook, releasing fish, or cleaning fish they will take home.

Interpretation

There are lots of opportunities for a self-motivated student to design a trail guide, interpretive sign or display. There are at present about 2 miles of marked hiking trails on the 4000-acre wildlife management area (WMA). Additional interpretive materials can be developed to educate trail and WMA users.

Hackettstown volunteer possibilities:

Contact Craig Lemon: 908-852-4950

Fisheries maintenance

Students can get hands-on experience with many fish culture practices at one of the countries largest fish hatcheries. The facility produces over a million warm and coolwater fish annually. Fifteen different species of fish are raised at Hackettstown, ranging from Gambusia to Muskellunge. Students will have the opportunity to learn the daily operations of a large-scale fish hatchery. This includes trapnetting, spawning, sorting, feeding, cleaning, fertilizing, inventories, and many other fun and interesting tasks. Every day is different and very challenging.

Interpretation

Like Pequest, there are many opportunities here for the creative and self-motivated student to identify and build wildlife interpretation facilities. This can include birdhouses (build and maintain), brush piles, exotic vegetation removal, litter pick up, pruning, and trail and blind building. Though Hackettstown is not open to the general public, limited numbers of groups are using the building and grounds by arrangement, and interpretive facilities will be of benefit to these visitors.